

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00235 101658Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 ACDA-12 /079 W
-----106950 101803Z /47

P R 101617Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4070
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USCINCEUR
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, GR, EC
SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS TO VISIT SEVERAL EC CAPITALS

REF: BONN 00269 (NOTAL)

1. AS HE HAS DONE BEFORE DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS,
PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS IS SCHEDULED TO EMBARK LATER THIS
MONTH ON ANOTHER ROUND OF PERSONAL DIPLOMACY SEEKING TO
PROMOTE GREECE'S EARLY ENTRY INTO THE EC. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED
THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVELS WILL INCLUDE VISITS TO LONDON
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(JANUARY 24-25), BRUSSELS (JANUARY 26-27), PARIS (JANUARY 28-29)
AND BONN (JANUARY 30-31).

2. A RESPONSIBLE MFA OFFICIAL TOLDUS THAT THE STOPOVERS IN
THESE EC CAPITALS WILL BE "WORKING VISITS", UNDERTAKEN AT
THE PRIME MINISTER'S INITIATIVE TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO
RENEW PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH KEY EUROPEAN LEADERS. THE MFA

OFFICIAL NOTED THE "UNOFFICIAL NATURE" OF THE TRIP AND STRESSED THAT CARAMANLIS' MAIN PURPOSE WOULD BE ONCE AGAIN TO ARGUE FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EC. OBVIOUSLY, THE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED, RELATIONS WITH NATO AND THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS OF THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS WERE LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED AS WELL. FINALLY, THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT A ROUND OF SIMILAR VISITS TO OTHER EC CAPITALS IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR LATER IN THE YEAR WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVE. NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE YET CONCERNING THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVELS BUT ONE IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION IN THE GREEK PRESS SINCE MID-DECEMBER THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR AND VISIT OTHER EC CAPITALS AS WELL IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EC. MORE RECENTLY, SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO RELATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS TO NATO ISSUES AND SPECIFICALLY TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHANGES IN THE COMMAND STRUCTURE IN IZMIR WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 30. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORT THAT HE WILL MEET WITH NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS DURING HIS STOP IN BRUSSELS.

MILLS

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NNN

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